

sucked. By the use of this, the insect has gained the soubriquet of stinging bug. This compact jointed beak is peculiar to all true bugs, and by observing it alone, we are able to distinguish all the very varied forms of this group. The antenna (Fig 4) is four-jointed. The first joint (Fig. 4, a) is short, the second and third (Fig. 4, b and c) are long and slim, while the terminal one (Fig. 4, d) is much enlarged. This enlarged joint is one of the characteristics of the genus *Phymata*, as described by

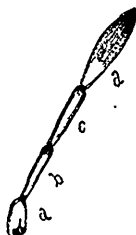


FIG. 4—Antenna, much magnified.



FIG. 5—Anterior Leg, magnified—exterior view.

Latreille. But the most curious structural peculiarity of this insect, and the chief character of the genus *Phymata*, is the enlarged anterior legs (Figs. 5, 6 and 7). These, were they only to aid in locomotion, would seem like awkward, clumsy organs, but when we learn that they are used to grasp and hold their prey, then we can but appreciate and admire their modified form. The femur (Fig. 5, b) and the tarsus (Fig. 5, a) are



FIG. 6—Interior view.

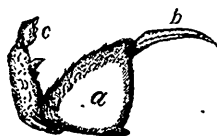


FIG. 7—Claw extended.



FIG. 8—Middle Leg—much magnified.

toothed, while the latter is greatly enlarged. From the interior lower aspect of the femur (Fig. 6) is the small tibia, while on the lower edge of the tarsus (Fig. 6, d) is a cavity in which rests the single claw. The other four legs (Fig. 7) are much as usual.

HABITS.

This insect, as already intimated, is very predaceous, lying in wait, often almost concealed, among flowers, ready to capture and destroy unwary plant lice, caterpillars, beetles, butterflies, moths, and even bees